

CLAIMS

- 5 1. A method of packaging a web, in which method a web (1) is slit into two or more narrower webs (2a to 2e) which are folded into superimposed layers (4), **characterized** by comprising the steps of
- directing the webs (2a to 2e) to a nip formed by two rotating reels (3a, 3b) and by inducing the webs, held alternately against the surfaces of the first (3a) and the second (3b) reel, to move with the reel the length of a pre-determined rotational angle to provide folding, and
- 10 joining the ends of the webs (2a to 2e) together so that the webs form a continuous whole whose length corresponds to the combined length of the webs.
2. A method as claimed in claim 1, **characterized** by joining the ends of the webs (2a to 2e) together by joining the forward/tail end of the outermost web (2a) to the forward/tail end of the adjacent web (2b), whose
- 15 forward/ tail end is joined to the forward/tail end of the next web (2c), the process continuing until all webs (2a to 2e) are joined to a continuous whole whose length corresponds to the combined length of the webs.
3. A method as claimed in claim 1, **characterized** by joining the forward and tail ends of the webs (2a to 2e) in pairs, the pairs being
- 20 formed at one end of the webs starting from the outermost web (2a), and at the other ends of the webs the pairs being formed starting from the next to the outermost web (2b), the webs of the stacks forming a continuous whole whose length corresponds to the combined length of the webs.
4. A method as claimed in claim 1, **characterized** by holding the webs against the surface of the reel (3a, 3b) by mechanical engagement of the web by means (9, 10) disposed on the surface of the reel and/or
- 25 by suction using underpressure.
5. A method as claimed in claim 1, **characterized** by joining the ends of the webs together by one or a combination of the following manners: sewing, taping, gluing, needling, hot sealing, ultrasound sealing, stapling
- 30 or the like.
6. A package for packaging a web, **characterized** by comprising two or more side-by-side stacks (5) of superimposed web layers (4) formed by folding the web, the ends of the webs (2a to 2e) in the stacks (5)

being joined together so that the webs form a continuous whole whose length corresponds to the combined length of the webs.

5 7. A package as claimed in claim 6, **characterized** by the ends of the webs (2a to 2e) being joined together by joining the forward/tail end of the outermost web (2a) to the forward/tail end of the adjacent web (2b), whose forward/ tail end is joined to the forward/tail end of the next web (2c), the process continuing until all webs (2a to 2e) are joined to a continuous whole whose length corresponds to the combined length of the webs.

10 8. A package as claimed in claim 6, **characterized** by the forward and tail ends of the webs (2a to 2e) being joined together in pairs, the pairs being formed at one end of the webs starting from the outermost web (2a), and at the other ends of the webs the pairs being formed starting from the next to the outermost web (2b), the webs of the stacks forming a continuous whole whose length corresponds to the combined length of the webs.

15 9. A package as claimed in claim 6, **characterized** by the ends of the webs being joined together by one or a combination of the following manners: sewing, taping, gluing, needling, hot sealing, ultrasound sealing, stapling or the like.

20 10. A package as claimed in claim 6, **characterized** by further comprising around the stacks (5) a solid outer casing (7) made from e.g. corrugated cardboard or plastic film.

11. A package as claimed in claim 10, **characterized** in that the forward and tail ends of the joined continuous web are disposed outside the outer casing of the package.

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